

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A locking safety latch for securing a pair of adjacent gate poles in a tensioned fence having a plurality of spaced apart poles and a mesh screening material stretched between the spaced apart poles, the latch comprising:

a first eyelet member having a first end secured to a first one of the gate poles and an opposite eyelet end;

a lock; and

a hook member having a first end secured to a second one of the gate poles and a generally L-shaped arm extending out from said first end, said L-shaped arm including an outer distal end structured (i) to be removably inserted through said eyelet end of said first eyelet member and (ii) to mate with said lock so that said outer distal end is secured within said eyelet end of said first eyelet member.

2. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 1, wherein said first end of said first eyelet member is externally threaded and structured to be screwed into said first one of the gate poles.

3. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second eyelet member having a first end secured to said second one of the gate poles and an opposite eyelet end structured to mate with said first end of said hook member.

4. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 1, wherein said outer distal end of said L-shaped arm is substantially ring-shaped.

5. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 4, wherein said lock is a padlock.

6. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 1, wherein said L-shaped arm further includes a spring-loaded tang biased towards said outer distal end.

7. A locking safety latch for securing a pair of adjacent gate poles in a tensioned fence having a plurality of spaced apart poles and a mesh screening material stretched between the spaced apart poles, the latch comprising:

a first eyelet member having a first end secured to a first one of the gate poles and an opposite eyelet end;

a second eyelet member having a first end secured to a second one of the gate poles and an opposite eyelet end;

5 a lock; and

a hook member having a first end structured to mate with said eyelet end of said second eyelet member and a generally L-shaped arm extending out from said first end, said L-shaped arm including a substantially ring-shaped outer distal end structured (i) to be removably inserted through said eyelet end of said first eyelet member and (ii) to mate with said lock so that said  
10 outer distal end is secured within said eyelet end of said first eyelet member.

8. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 7, wherein said first end of said first eyelet member is externally threaded and structured to be screwed into said first one of the gate poles.

9. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 7, wherein said lock is a padlock.

15 10. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 7, wherein said L-shaped arm further includes a spring-loaded tang biased towards said outer distal end.

11. A method of locking a safety latch to a pair of adjacent gate poles in a tensioned fence, the safety latch having a first eyelet member secured to one of the gate poles, a second eyelet member secured to the second gate pole, a lock and a hook member having a first end  
20 attached to the second eyelet member and a generally L-shaped arm extending out from the first end, the method comprising:

a) inserting the outer distal end of the L-shaped arm through the first eyelet member;  
and

b) securing the lock to the outer distal end.

25 12. A method of locking a safety latch to a pair of adjacent gate poles in a tensioned fence as recited in claim 11, wherein the outer distal end of the L-shaped arm is substantially ring-shaped.

13. A method of locking a safety latch to a pair of adjacent gate poles in a tensioned fence as recited in claim 12, wherein the lock is a padlock having an arm structured for insertion through the substantially ring-shaped outer distal end of the L-shaped arm.

14. A locking safety latch comprising:

5 a first eyelet member having a first end secured to a first structure and an opposite second eyelet end;

a lock; and

a hook member having a first end secured to a second structure and a generally L-shaped arm extending out from said first end, said L-shaped arm including an outer distal end structured  
10 (i) to be removably inserted through said eyelet end of said first eyelet member and (ii) to mate with said lock so that said outer distal end is secured within said eyelet end of said first eyelet member.

15 15. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 14, wherein said first end of said first eyelet member is externally threaded and structured to be screwed into said first one of the gate poles.

16. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 14, further comprising a second eyelet member having a first end secured to said second one of the gate poles and an opposite eyelet end structured to mate with said first end of said hook member.

20 17. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 14, wherein said outer distal end of said L-shaped arm is substantially ring-shaped.

18. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 17, wherein said lock is a padlock.

19. A locking safety latch as recited in claim 14, wherein said L-shaped arm further includes a spring-loaded tang biased towards said outer distal end of said L-shaped arm.